
Sustaining Assessment at the Federal Level

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Why do Federally-led National Climate Assessments?

Law

- The Global Change Research Act of 1990 mandates quadrennial assessments

Authoritative Information

- Single source of authoritative information for a diverse group of users
- National-level assessments have reach and visibility across the U.S.

National Synthesis

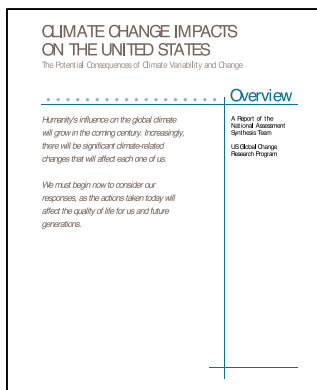
- Provides an opportunity to synthesize sub-national efforts and knowledge from across the country



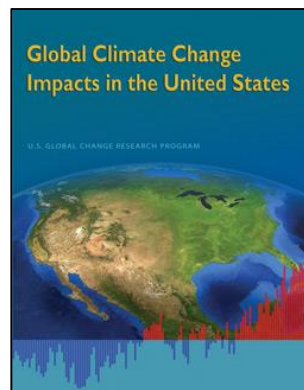
The National Climate Assessment

NCA1 through NCA4: 2000 to 2018

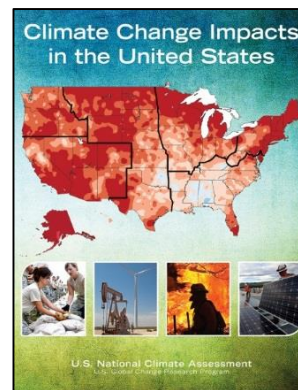
- USGCRP has (nearly) produced four National Climate Assessments (NCAs)
- Each covers climate change science and impacts to sectors and regions in the United States
- Each NCA had a unique production process



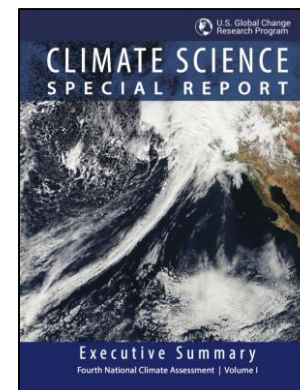
NCA1



NCA2



NCA3



NCA4 Volume II:
Impacts, Risks,
and Adaptation in
the United States

December 2018

NCA4



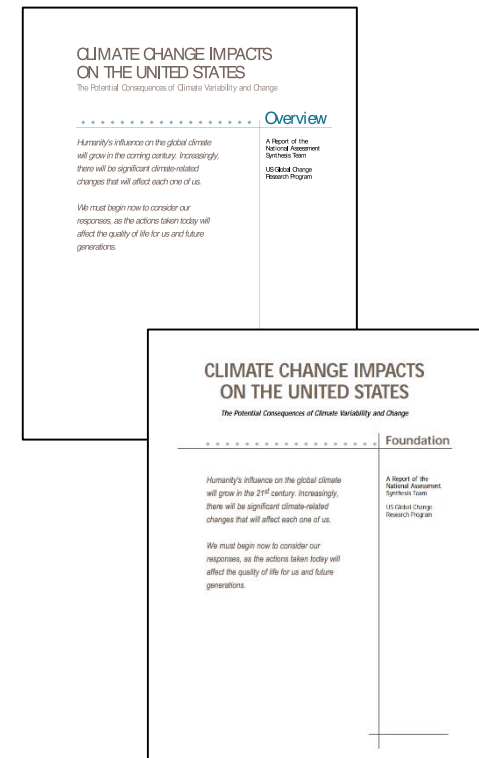
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First National Climate Assessment

NCA1 (2000 / 2001)

- Initiated in 1997 with a series of Regional Climate Change Workshops sponsored by USG and carried out by local partners (scientists ↔ stakeholders)
- 5 sector teams and 20 regional teams drafted “workshop and assessment reports”
- A “National Assessment Synthesis Team” (FAC) synthesized these reports into 9 regional and 5 sectoral chapters
- Released in two parts:
 - 163p Overview Report (*for decision-makers & the public*)
 - 522p Foundation Report (*for experts*)

www.globalchange.gov/engage/process-products/NCA1



Second National Climate Assessment

NCA2 (2009)

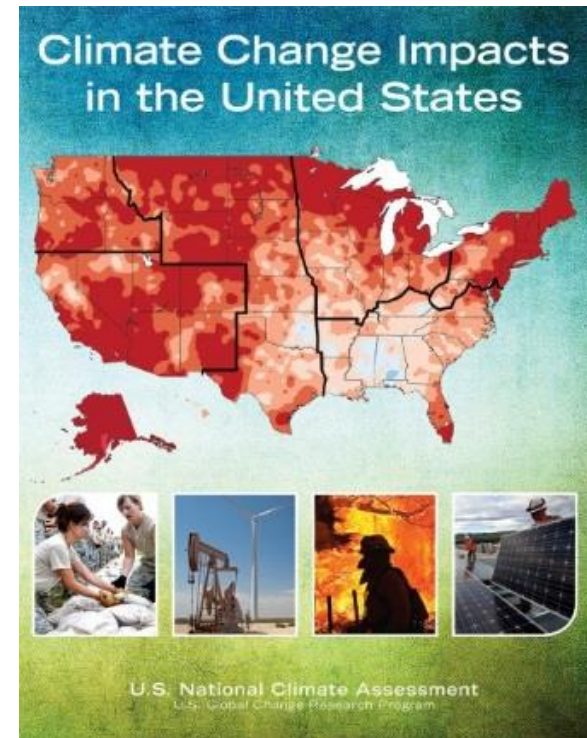
- 21 agency-led Synthesis and Assessment Products (SAPs) developed under a variety of authorship models serve as the foundation
- Summary report produced by a Federal Advisory Committee
- 9 regions and 7 sectors (slightly different from NCA1) in final 196p report



Third National Climate Assessment

NCA3 (2014)

- Produced by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee (NCADAC), with support from 300+ experts
- 70+ workshops and listening sessions
- NCADAC solicited sectoral and regional technical input reports
- 13 sectoral, 10 regional, and 5 response chapters (841p)



nca2014.globalchange.gov



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Fourth National Climate Assessment

NCA4 (2017 + 2018)

- Two volumes:
 - I. Climate Science Special Report (477p)
 - II. Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the U.S. (TBD)
- Led by Federal Steering Committee, but written by ~350 Federal and non-Federal experts
- 10 Regional Engagement Workshops; sector-specific public engagement webinars; multiple FRNs; dozens of other public engagement activities
- 15 sectoral, 10 regional, and 2 response chapters



science2017.globalchange.gov

NCA4 Volume II:
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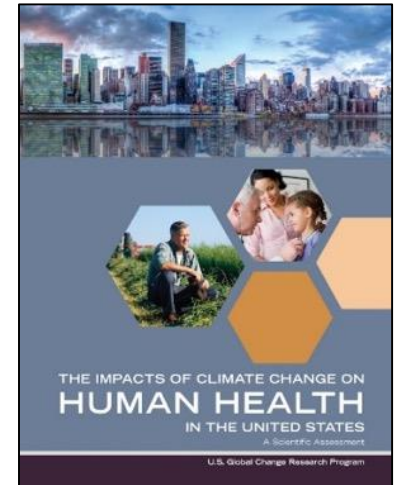
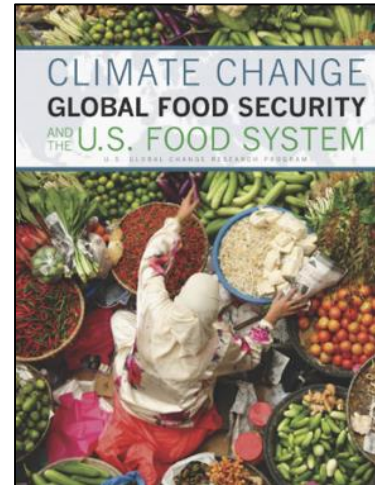
NCA4: *Advances*

Special Reports

- Food Security (2015)
- Health (2016)
- SOCCR-2 (scheduled 2018)

Science advances in CSSR

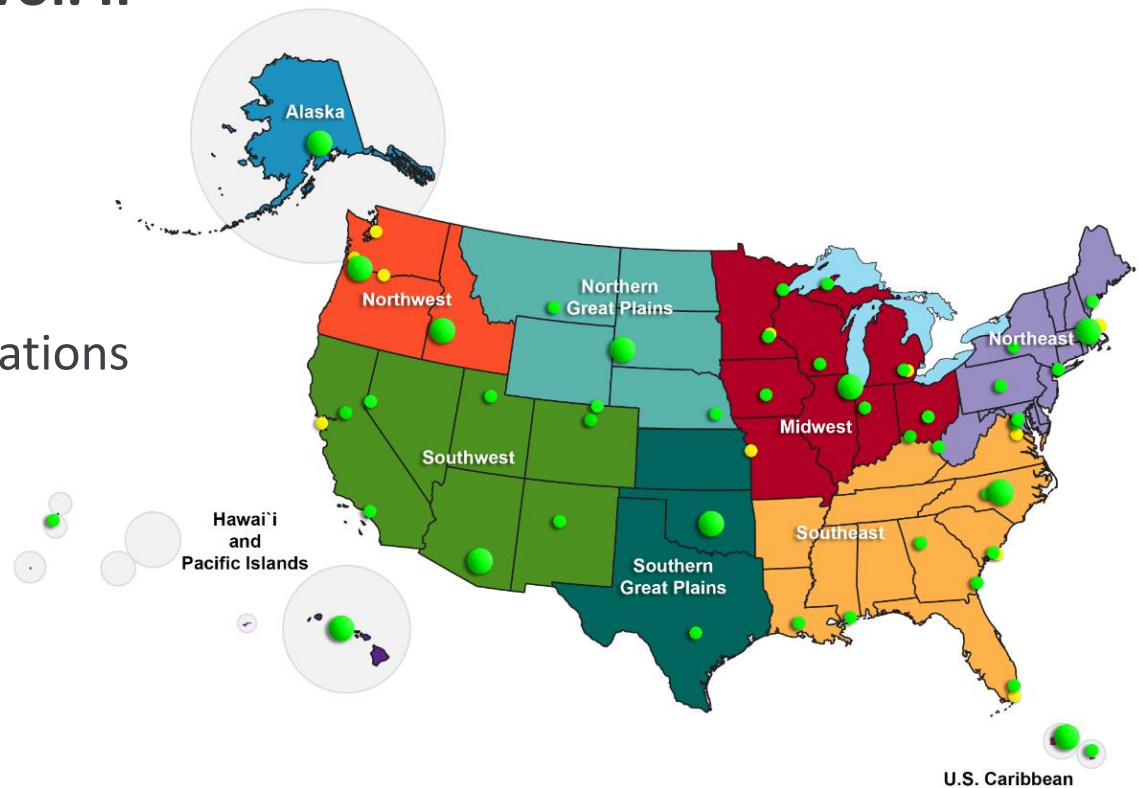
- Detection & Attribution
- Extreme Events
- Downscaled info
- Potential surprises



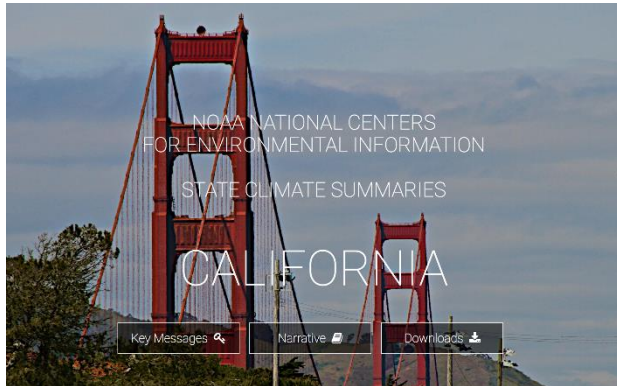
NCA4: *Areas of Emphasis*

Areas of Emphasis in Vol. II

- Regions
 - Case Studies
- Economic Impacts
- International Considerations
- Risk-framing



NCA4: *Informed by Sub-National Efforts*



State climate summaries

stateclimatesummaries.globalchange.gov



State and Regional assessments



Regional, state, tribal, county, city and private sector mitigation & adaptation plans and actions



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Sustaining the NCA Process

Goals

- Build on previous Federal (INCA) and FAC-led (NCADAC and ACSNCA) sustained assessment efforts
- Routinize elements of assessment processes to minimize delays and uncertainty
- Grow the assessment community
- Improve usability of Federal products

Current Federal Efforts

- Sustained Assessment Working Group (SAWG) developing recommendations for USGCRP
 - Based on topical conversations with Federal and non-Federal experts
- Will develop a roadmap for Federal sustained assessment process



Thank you!

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